

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Biography for Leana S. Wen, M.D. M.Sc. FAAEM

Dr. Leana Wen is the Health Commissioner of Baltimore City. She leads the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), the oldest continuously-operating health department in the United States, formed in 1793. BCHD is an agency with a \$130 million annual budget and 1,000 employees that aims to promote health and improve well-being through education, policy/advocacy, and direct service delivery. BCHD's wide-ranging responsibilities include maternal and child health, school health, senior services, animal control, restaurant inspections, emergency preparedness, STI/HIV treatment, and acute and chronic disease prevention. Dr. Wen also serves as Chair of the Board of Behavioral Health System Baltimore, a \$75-million nonprofit that is the City's designated behavioral health authority.

Since her appointment in January 2015, Dr. Wen has led the implementation of the citywide opioid overdose prevention and response plan, which includes "hotspotting" and street outreach teams to target individuals most at risk, training police officers and lay people on naloxone use, issuing a "blanket prescription" for all 620,000 residents in the city, and launching a new public education campaign (www.dontdie.org) that includes a first-of-its-kind online naloxone training. In the wake of the civil unrest in April, she directed the city's public health recovery efforts, including ensuring prescription medication access to seniors after the closure of 13 pharmacies and developing the Mental Health/Trauma Recovery Plan, with 24/7 crisis counseling and healing circles and group counseling in schools, community groups, and churches.

Dr. Wen is a board-certified emergency physician. She received her medical training from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Brigham & Women's Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where she was a Clinical Fellow at Harvard Medical School. A Rhodes Scholar, she received her Master's degrees at the University of Oxford. She has served as a consultant with the World Health Organization, Brookings Institution, and China Medical Board; an advisor to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and the Lown Institute; as national president of the American Medical Student Association and American Academy of Emergency Medicine-Resident & Student Association; as a member of the Council on Graduate Medical Education, an advisory commission to Congress. Prior to her appointment in Baltimore, she was a professor of Emergency Medicine and Health Policy at The George Washington University, where she co-directed the Residency Fellowship in Health Policy and co-led a new national collaboration on health policy and social mission with Kaiser Permanente.

An expert on public health policy, patient safety, and U.S. and international health systems reform, Dr. Wen has published over 100 articles including in *The Lancet*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Health Affairs*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Health Security*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *British Medical Journal*. Author of the critically-acclaimed book [*When Doctors Don't Listen: How to Avoid Misdiagnoses and Unnecessary Tests*](#), Dr. Wen has been featured on NPR, CNN, Fox, and MSNBC, and in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. Her TED talk on transparency in medicine has been viewed over 1.4 million times.